

# #humansofwestview



"My father owned a restaurant. It was called Prestige Palace.

gun closer to my chest and as soon as they did that, cops drove right by so they fled.

Check this out in the newspaper—in 2005, one night it got shot at by rival gang members. They were looking for one specific person and they ended up shooting a girl. Now the girl that got shot was my friend's sister in middle school. Now we're no longer friends.

My mom had to therapeutically talk me down and convince me not to go back and take a gun or something. While this was happening, I met this one teacher in grade ten named Mr. Carey. He started to ask me really challenging things in class about mortality and ethics.

At that period, I was going through a mild depression and extreme anxiety as a result of different things going on in the community--this was during the Year of the Gun. So a lot of my friends were getting involved in selling drugs.

It really challenged me to think about my own predicament and it got me into reading. I kept reading and reading.

I started stealing and flipping. So I would steal a bike then sell it for 100 bucks. One day, I was trying to steal a bike in Jane and Shepherd. I was with a couple friends.

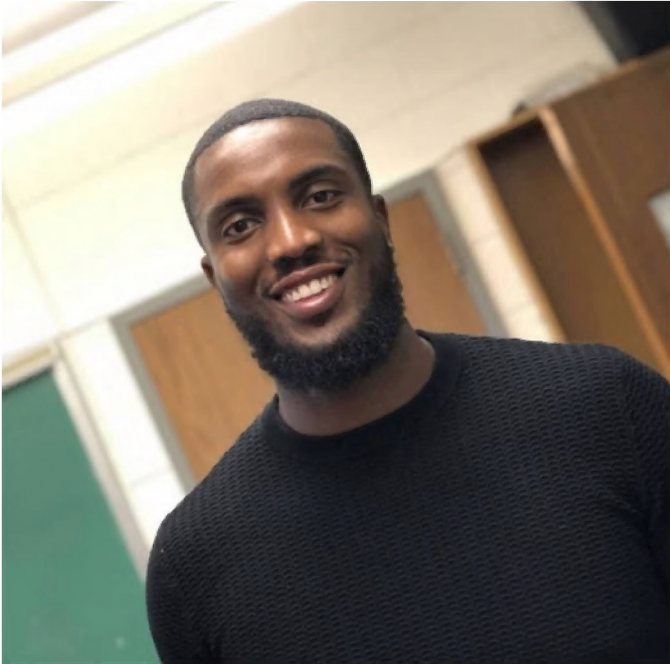
Soon, I'm getting an A+ in Political Science at York. That got me a scholarship and the rest is really history. And pretty much why right now I am a final year PhD candidate, able to teach in universities.

While I was doing that, the Blood gang in the area chased me down this hill and held me at gunpoint. They held me right in front of this white building on Jane Street. And they told me to give them whatever I had in my bag. I had a PS2 and I was like, no, I'm not giving you anything. They held the

Because of that moment, that one teacher, I followed a different path. I would've sabotaged my whole life opportunities.

That was a really a pivotal moment."

*June 24, 2019*



# #humansofwestview



"My greatest fear is not accomplishing the goals I have for myself.

I did have one major goal which was to play basketball and it didn't end up happening. So right now I'm really just finding myself and figuring out what's in the plan for me.

I feel like I accomplished some of the things I set out for myself. I gave myself a nice family, I have a clothing line, so I'm stable right now, but not necessarily satisfied.

I'm not where I want to be, at the moment, but I'm going to make sure I get somewhere in executing my goals. I'm currently trying to secure another job at the school board. I got a few other goals at the moment that right now I'm trying to fulfill and achieve.

So far, I feel like I'm almost there."

*June 23, 2019*

# #humansofwestview



"In my time, I grew up in Scarborough. I went to Albert Campbell Collegiate Institute.

I was never good in math but my parents insisted that I took Finite and Probability because I needed the courses for university. I was the only Indian girl that was in the class.

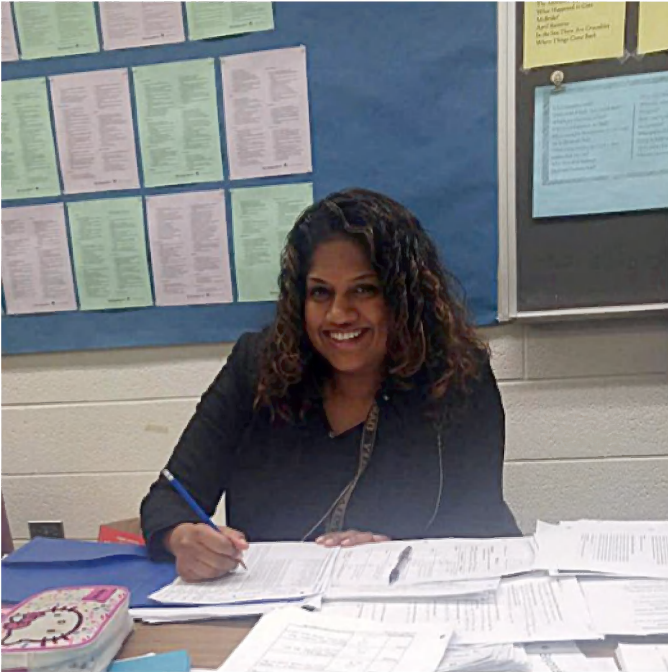
The rest of the students were so good in math that when they got under 90 percent, they would get very upset. I, on the other hand, only ever got 14 percent.

My teacher was an older white man. We were on our third test and he had given everyone else's test back. He waited until the end to give my test back and there was a McDonald's application attached to it.

He said to me, you are in the wrong class. And for me that was such a humiliating moment to get a test back like that.

I always wanted to be a teacher but that incident was what motivated me to become a teacher."

*December 17, 2018*



# #humansofwestview



"I was frightened and traumatized. I thought I was going to lose my life. To this day, I am still afraid of the water. I lived near a river stream in Thailand.

My mother was taking the ducks out of the river. I followed her but she did not know because she was busy with the ducks. As I wet my legs in the water, one of my flip-flops drifted away. I was worried that my mother was going to yell at me, so I chased it.

I began to get deeper into the river and I couldn't swim. The river washed me away to a different village. I was unconscious.

A guy from the village saw two legs coming out of the water. He thought it was an animal and he came to check.

It was me, a 6-year old girl carried away through the river and unconscious.

He rushed me to the hospital. It was more like a refugee camp. They did CPR on me. However, it took awhile for them to find my parents. I was fine and I'm alive."

*January 1, 2020*





# #humansofwestview



"My cousin was stabbed back in 2014, on October 26th in the Canada's Wonderland parking lot.

Those weeks were filled with much pain and agony due to the loss of life we suffered from someone else's dumb actions. I felt numb and very scared to hear the story. To believe what had taken place, actually happened.

When we found out that he died, there was screaming in everyone's head.

My uncle was on his knees, as my aunt begged for the lord to say it's not true. We all wished that none of it happened. We will never forget what loss we suffered that day, week, and the entire year.

Since I've lost my cousin, I've always been nice to those around me and I don't take friendships, relationships for granted."

*January 4, 2020*

# #humansofwestview



"I started woodworking when I was 15 years old, in grade 10. I took it as a class all the way through high school, actually.

I really liked having tangible outcomes to my work and the practical type of problem solving that you encounter in this field of study. In the summers, I worked for my uncle's company making curved and elliptical stairs.

I worked there as a summer job throughout high school. I actually diverted from carpentry in post secondary. My highest marks were in the sciences, chem, bio, physics so I went into an environmental program for two years. I really enjoyed the course content and theory but I found the workplace setting in my internship isolating and I wanted to work with people.

I switched programs and entered into a disabilities study program which set me up to work as an educational assistant. I worked in an elementary school for four years. I took a year off to teach English in Japan and when I

returned I fell back into carpentry as a quick gig, but revisiting the trade as an adult, I took things a bit more seriously and subsequently, excelled a bit more quickly.

I completed my apprenticeship and worked the better part of a decade as a carpenter. Working in any industry for 10 years, you invariably end up training other people and in that, I began to realize that, in addition to carpentry, I also really enjoyed training someone and then watching them have success.

I began looking into teaching woodworking. I applied to teachers' college and spent a year in the program. After that, I started teaching carpentry at George Brown College in the Continuing Education department.

It wasn't for another couple of years that I got a job teaching with the TDSB and the rest as they say is present day."

*June 24, 2019*



# #humansofwestview



"I started my YouTube channel two years ago, I had about 10 subscribers and approximately 40 views on my videos. Everyone at school was joking around and making fun of me.

They told me I wouldn't get any subscribers and that I would soon come to realize that too. I let them get in my head and I gave up, but then I came to realize that I had to believe in myself and work toward my goal of having a successful channel.

Today I have about 1.5k subscribers and about 17 thousand views in total. So never let anyone put you down and always believe in yourself.

Don't forget to subscribe to Adil Avez."

*June 24, 2019*



# #humansofwestview



"Sports impacted me a lot when I was younger. Sports even impact me now.

Growing up, I watched a lot sports, but I especially watched basketball. I looked up to the NBA greats like Lebron and Kobe.

I studied over their games and analyzed the work they put into their craft. I admired them both on and off the court. Their games were amazing to watch every night.

My love for the game of basketball pushed me to play the game, which I did. I played in middle school and from time to time, I still play now. People should do what they enjoy.

People should do what makes them happy, and for me that's the game of basketball."

*January 17, 2019*



# #humansofwestview



"When my great grandfather passed, I realized how scary losing someone to death is. It sent me on this emotional spiral, and it was only going downhill.

It sucked because I was only 10, and I didn't know why I felt so sad, and why the sadness came so late. When I was told he had passed, I had no idea how to feel. He was a really cool guy, and it was my first experience having someone pass away that I knew so well.

Everyone finished grieving for him about a month and a half after he passed, and that's when I decided to start. It was an unconscious decision, sure, but a decision nonetheless. I just fell into a slump. I wasn't able to go to his funeral, which at the time wasn't a big deal because I was young; I regret not going.

I can't bring myself to visit his grave, because I feel ashamed. Ashamed that I didn't grieve earlier. He meant a lot to me, and I had no idea until I was way older. That moment of intense sadness made me realize how petrified I am of death. Not my death, but my loved ones'.

It's depressing to think of how many people in my family are reaching 60 and 70, and how their time on earth is limited. This fear, however, makes me understand how precious life is, and to savour every moment like it's your last."

*December 2, 2018*



# #humansofwestview



"What I am grateful for is my parents because if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be who I am today. I have a mother and father that have always put me on the right path in life, even if I was doing something bad.

I remember getting into a big argument with my sister at my house because she broke my red PlayStation controller on purpose and lied about it. It was last year in June, near the last day of school. I yelled at her because I was mad and my parents rushed in my room to intervene. Without even knowing what the problem was, somehow I was in the wrong for raising my voice and they told me to relax.

No matter how many times I tried disagreeing with what they tell me, like to lower my voice when speaking with my family, deep down, I knew that what they were telling me was key information they learned from experience. They have helped me in so many ways that I've lost count. My mother constantly tells me that education is extremely important in life.

Just last night she told me that to succeed, you need that mindset, to learn every step of the way. In other places in the world, some people never had the chance to go to school to learn and this makes me think of how lucky I am that I get to go to a one of a kind school like Westview.

I'm not sure what I want to be in the future, but I know education will take me far in life and that's something I truly appreciate."

*January 3, 2020*



# #humansofwestview



"Throughout my life, I feel that I have always been a popular kid.

I think, however, that it's due to the fact that not only am I easily approachable but I'm that one person that will be there if you need to talk or need guidance. I constantly find myself helping people and trying to guide them in a positive direction.

It has become common when people come to talk to me and I enjoy when they do, maybe I could say something that brightens up their day and makes them feel good. The fact that I'm approachable ties in with why I enjoy talking.

Sometimes when people come to talk to me, they bring up problems that they may be going through. Helping people with their problems has always been, almost second nature to me. I'd like to believe I have a lot of empathy, which helps me see into how others might be feeling. Though there are times when it becomes a struggle.

I might talk to someone and end up ruining their day. It hasn't happened but I'm aware that it could. There's sometimes when people don't want any help with their problem but I can see that they're struggling, but I can't control people so I usually tell them that 'I'm here to talk.'

However, despite the negative repercussions that my conversation could possibly produce, I will forever enjoy helping people and giving people someone to talk to."

*June 27, 2019*



# #humansofwestview



"I want to be a high school teacher when I grow up because I was always discouraged by my high school teacher in grade nine.

She told me that I would not graduate and I thought, "Wow, a teacher can say that to a student?"

I want to give students a chance and encourage them the way my teacher never encouraged me. My parents wanted me to be a doctor but I don't want to spend my life doing surgical procedures on people.

I want to help my community because I see how people are discriminated against.

I'm very optimistic and I just want to give people the benefit of the doubt."

*June 23, 2019*





# #humansofwestview



"After high school, I plan on going to college for ECE, or maybe Baking, but I don't know yet.

Honestly, I might do both.

I really like to bake. I do it all the time at home with my mom or my boyfriend. Cookies, cupcakes, you know, stuff like that.

I've always liked to work with kids. I'm told that I'm amazing with them by just about everyone I know.

My main focus really is becoming an elementary school teacher, because teaching youth is a major interest."

*June 23, 2019*

# #humansofwestview



"February 4, 2016 is a date that I will never forget.

It was a turning point in my life. While I am very fortunate to still be mobile, I had to give up something that I loved. On that day, I fell off a very high platform and broke my right leg, ruptured my tendon and tore my ligaments.

I couldn't play soccer anymore because I was injured, and if I continued to play the game my injury would only get worse. I was upset for months because I couldn't play the game that I loved.

As time passed, my love for soccer faded and my love for being a high achiever in school grew.

Although I was struck by that sudden incident, it turned out to be something good for me in the end."

*April 22, 2019*



# #humansofwestview



"My biggest fear is heights.

When I'm in a high place above the ground, and I look down, I feel my heart start to race. It feels like it gets sunken into my chest and I get scared.

Sometimes when I was younger, maybe 4 or 5, my grandfather would hover me over the balcony and I hated it. My only thought was death.

Since I was a kid, it was really intense.

Even to this day when I go on roller coasters, I get flashbacks and I get really scared. I begin to panic even though I know I'm not going to die. It's just one of those things you can't help.

My mom told me I will grow out of it, but honestly I don't think I will."

*February 23, 2019*

# #humansofwestview



"I'm not close to my father as other people.

He lives across the world, in Vietnam. I FaceTime him on a daily basis but there's always something in the back of my head that makes me feel hurt that he isn't here.

It's not the same seeing him on the screen, though I'm grateful that I can talk to him. Growing up with my four sisters and my mother is hard; I'm the only guy in the family.

If my sisters need any advice they go to my mom. I can't talk to my mom about guy stuff.

It's hard but as I grow up, I learn to face the fact that I do have a father but he's just not with me."

*January 20, 2019*





# #humansofwestview



"I'm not close to my father as other people.

He lives across the world, in Vietnam. I FaceTime him on a daily basis but there's always something in the back of my head that makes me feel hurt that he isn't here.

It's not the same seeing him on the screen, though I'm grateful that I can talk to him. Growing up with my four sisters and my mother is hard; I'm the only guy in the family.

If my sisters need any advice they go to my mom. I can't talk to my mom about guy stuff.

It's hard but as I grow up, I learn to face the fact that I do have a father but he's just not with me."

*January 20, 2019*

